

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 /068 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:PWKRIEBEL:MR

APPROVED BY IO:ROBLAKE

EA/K:FMISCH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, CE

SUBJECT: KOREA QUESTION AT 30TH UNGA; SRI LANKA POSITION

1. ROK EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS TOLD US THAT THEY BELIEVE SRI LANKA MAY VOTE FOR THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WHILE ABSTAINING ON OURS. POSSIBLE BASIS OF THE KOREAN CONCERN IS THE RECENT VISIT TO PYONGYANG OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DAUGHTER AND REMARKS BY HER SON-IN-LAW TO MASS MEETING THERE OCTOBER 11 THAT SRI LANKA WOULD DO ALL IT COULD AT THE UN TO HELP THE NORTH KOREANS' "JUST STRUGGLE".

2. REQUEST YOU MAKE REPRESENTATION TO FONOFF AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO ASCERTAIN THEIR POSITION ON KOREAN ITEM IN UNGA DEBATE. OUR GOAL IS TO HOLD SRI LANKA TO ABSTENTION ON BOTH RESOLUTIONS. WE WOULD LIKE THEIR
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SUPPORT ON THE PROCEDURAL ISSUE BUT WOULD BE SATISFIED

IF THEY WOULD ABSTAIN ON THIS ALSO. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON TALKING POINTS BELOW AS WELL AS INFORMATION IN DEPCIRCTELS (STATE 225930, 248487) AS APPROPRIATE BUT SHOULD ENSURE THAT HOST GOVERNMENT CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE TO US AND PARTICULARLY THAT US WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND ONE-SIDED NEUTRALITY. DEPENDING ON FONOFF RESPONSE DEPT WILL REVIEW NEED TO CALL IN

SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR HERE FOR FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS. EMBASSY REPLY REQUESTED NO LATER THAN OPENING OF BUSINESS WASHINGTON TIME OCTOBER 25.

3. KOREA DEBATE BEGAN OCTOBER 21. PROCEDURAL VOTE ON PRECEDENCE COULD OCCUR AT ANY TIME BUT VOTE ON TWO OPPOSING RESOLUTIONS EXPECTED OCTOBER 29.

4. TALKING POINTS

-- IT HAS BEEN OUR IMPRESSION THAT SRI LANKA WOULD FOLLOW ITS TRADITIONAL EVEN-HANDED APPROACH TO THE KOREA QUESTION AT THE UNGA AND ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON THE TWO COMPETING RESOLUTIONS WHICH ARE NOW BEING DEBATED.

-- IN ADDITION TO THE TWO SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS WE EXPECT THERE MAY BE A NUMBER OF VOTES ON THE ORDER IN WHICH VOTES ARE TAKEN ON THE TWO ISSUES.

-- WE BELIEVE OUR RESOLUTION CLEARLY HAS PRIORITY WHEN THE ISSUE COMES TO A VOTE, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT ON THIS. EVEN STATES WHICH MAY BE NEUTRAL ON SUBSTANCE CAN COMFORTABLY SUPPORT US IN THIS AREA BECAUSE THEY ARE SUPPORTING AN ESTABLISHED RULE OF PROCEDURE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

--HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT DURING THE VISIT TO NORTH KOREA OF PRIME MINISTER'S DAUGHTER, SUNEPHRA RUPASINGHE, AND HER PARTY, PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE MADE WHICH MIGHT INDICATE A CHANGE IN SRI LANKA'S POSITION TOWARD FAVORING THE NORTH KOREAN SIDE. (FBIS: KCNA IN ENGLISH OCTOBER 13.)
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-- I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT WE SEE THE QUESTION OF KOREA AS A MAJOR US SECURITY INTEREST. WE COULD UNDERSTAND A POSITION OF NEUTRALITY ON THE TWO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BUT WE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND A VOTE IN FAVOR OF A RESOLUTION CLEARLY INTENDED TO UNDERMINE THE SECURITY OF THIS AREA. INGERSOLL

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